

continuing in Iraq and on the rise in Afghanistan, their skills are in high demand.

In February of this year, Lee's unit shipped out to Iraq, but in April they were redeployed to Afghanistan as part of the renewed effort to defeat the Taliban.

Last Monday, just weeks after his 26th birthday and 10 days before he was scheduled to return home on leave, Private Lee Meredith was tragically killed in action in Kandahar when a roadside bomb detonated near his vehicle.

Lee was proud to be in the Army and to wear our country's uniform. In the 7 months that he served overseas, Lee earned both the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, the Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

As a soldier, a brother, a son, and a friend, he made a lasting impact on those who knew him, and as an American hero, his service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO BE ACCOUNTABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, when you travel around the country today, one of the things that we see is that a lot of people are divided over different issues. But one thing that they all seem to be in unison about is the need for our government to be accountable, the administration to be accountable to the House and to the Senate and for us to be accountable to the people that we represent.

Oftentimes, we spend hours on this floor debating just how we're going to bring about that accountability, and that's why it's so disappointing at the end of the day to realize it doesn't really matter what we put in the statutes because the administration is determined that they're just not going to comply with it.

This year, Madam Speaker, when we're looking at one of the largest budgets we have, the defense budget, the Secretary of Defense issued a gag order prohibiting hundreds of members of the Pentagon from doing what they do every year, and that is to just communicate with Members of Congress, to tell them where cuts were being made and where moneys were going to various programs. It's one thing if they want to stop them from talking to Members of Congress, but then when they failed to comply with the statutes

that dictate that they send us information so that we can make those independent assessments, Madam Speaker, that's where it becomes even more frustrating.

The statute that's passed by this Congress, signed by the President, says that the Secretary of Defense, when he sends his budget over, has to give the Armed Services Committee a shipbuilding plan. It makes common sense. It makes good sense that we know how many ships we were going to build, how many ships we were going to have so we could compare them with other nations. And then he has to certify that the budget he sends over meets that plan.

He has to do the same thing with an aviation plan, required by law that he submits to us an aviation plan telling us which planes we are going to build, how many planes we're going to have, and a certification that the budget complies with that aviation plan.

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This year he just refused to do it. When we asked him about it, he responded with no information at all. So the Armed Services Committee, on a bipartisan basis with every member of the Armed Services Committee agreeing, every Democrat, every Republican, passed a congressional inquiry mandating that the Secretary of Defense comply with the law and send us the shipbuilding plan and the aviation plan by September 15 so we would have those figures before the conference committee came back on the Defense authorization bill. And, Madam Speaker, to date he has refused to submit those plans to the Armed Services Committee.

So, Madam Speaker, the difficulty we have is this: How do you as the Secretary of Defense look at our men and women in uniform across the world who are defending this country and say to them, You need to comply with the law, you need to comply with the regulations that we send out of the Pentagon, but it does not apply to him and he continues to skirt the law?

Madam Speaker, the American people deserve better, and we're going to continue to fight until we get that information to hold the accountability that we think they need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### URGING SUPPORT FOR H. RES. 782, A RESOLUTION DEMANDING IRAN DISCLOSE FULLY AND ALLOW UNFETTERED INSPECTION OF ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Resolution 782. This is a resolution that I have introduced and which demands that Iran fully disclose its nuclear facilities, its nuclear development facilities, and also allow unfettered international inspection of its nuclear program.

The elimination of nuclear weapons is an issue that is certainly very close to my heart, and I would like to see that nuclear weapons actually are removed from the face of the planet. So it certainly goes in the wrong direction were we as a Nation to tolerate another nation, especially Iran, acquiring the technology to develop nuclear weapons.

What's troubling is last week the whole world learned that Iran has concealed construction of an enrichment facility near the city of Qom. And they did that without knowing that our intelligence community already knew that the facility was over there. It just had not been publicly disclosed, as it was last week. I guess one of the motivations for not disclosing it prior to last week was to just see how deep in the bad faith bucket would Iran pull its water from. They had no intention of revealing it. It was secret. They exercised deception to conceal it. So our country's announcement last week I'm sure was not a happy time for the Iranian leadership.

Having set the model for how they will deal with the international community insofar as nuclear enrichment and from that acquiring or building a nuclear weapon, we have to make sure that we reverse that bad faith into good faith if at all possible. One of the ways of doing that is through continued tightening of sanctions and to isolate the country of Iran for continuing to be deceptive about its nuclear intentions and its nuclear program.

So while my resolution, H. Res. 782, does not impose sanctions, it just merely puts the House of Representatives on record, as we approach the Geneva talks coming up on Thursday, that we want to have disclosure immediately, immediate international inspections, and immediate access by inspectors to its nuclear facilities. That's what this resolution does.

My friend Chairman HOWARD BERMAN of the Foreign Affairs Committee has a number of options that he is considering with respect to sanctions. So in no way would I want this bill to interfere with other measures that will be coming forward out of his committee. But this is necessitated by haste because of the approaching deadline for the Geneva talks to begin.

We have got wide bipartisan support, and I hope my colleagues will join the 39 Members from both sides of the aisle who have already cosponsored it.